



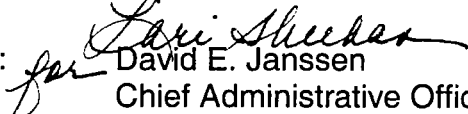
# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

October 12, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:  David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## STATUS REPORT ON HOMELESS DISCHARGE POLICIES

In accordance with your Board's direction on January 4, 2005, this report provides the status of activities to date to review the impact of County policies and procedures regarding the discharge of at-risk and homeless persons from County institutions. The Chief Administrative Office, Service Integration Branch, has continued to facilitate a work group composed of representatives from the County's health and human services departments, as well as representatives from Probation, Regional Planning, Sheriff, the Community Development Commission, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The Discharge Work Group is in the process of finalizing a series of recommendations for your Board's consideration. We anticipate transmitting the recommendations to you no later than November 28, 2005. Following is a summary of the major recommendations:

- Create several strategically located, short-term shelter and service centers for persons discharged from County jail who have no identified place to go. The purpose of the centers would be to stabilize discharged persons by ensuring that they have a connection to housing and supportive services. The Sheriff is the County's largest discharger of at-risk and homeless persons who have multiple service needs, including shelter. While the Sheriff has taken significant steps over the last several years to connect jail inmates with services and housing upon release, including the creation of a community transition team, this population continues to represent the greatest number of persons who become homeless upon discharge from a County institution.

- Develop procedures to expeditiously reconnect persons discharged from the County jail with County-administered benefits and services that they became ineligible for upon incarceration. Examples of benefits and services include SSI, CalWORKs, Food Stamps, General Relief, and, for emancipated foster youth or probation youth who have been incarcerated Independent Living Program services.
- Develop the ability to maintain certain types of services, as well as medications for persons incarcerated in County jail. Examples would include ensuring that the Sheriff is financially able to maintain a jail prisoner on prescribed medications for mental illness; currently, in response to budget limitation, the Sheriff conducts mental health assessments of prisoners and provides the least expensive medication possible. Other examples would include parenting or anger management classes required as a result of child welfare and/or domestic violence referrals.
- Work with the Superior Court to create a mental health court for chronically homeless persons with mental health and/or substance abuse issues through which such persons would be ordered by the court to accept and maintain services in exchange for reduction/dismissal of legal violations.
- Fund and staff multi-departmental County health and human services outreach teams that work in tandem with local police departments and nonprofit agencies to canvass areas where there are large concentrations of homeless persons to reach out and connect the homeless with services including temporary supportive housing.
- Have all departments that run County institutions directly or through a County contract utilize/implement the discharge standards and guidelines and the universal discharge form developed by the Discharge Work Group. The standards and guidelines include the ability for departments to add department-specific requirements.
- Continue to work with the County Housing Alliance on other related initiatives that are consistent with the work of the Discharge Policies Work Group, including, but not limited to a housing trust fund, developing a housing data base, creating SPA-based teams of housing specialists who work with all County clients in obtaining permanent housing, continuing efforts to improve the capacity of transitional age youth to link with services that will improve their opportunity to transition to a successful adulthood, and create alliances with other public agencies and community organizations to provide support services and permanent housing for persons discharged from County institutions.

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If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff my contact Lari Sheehan at (213) 893-2477 or [lsheehan@cao.co.la.ca.us](mailto:lsheehan@cao.co.la.ca.us).

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